



Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

March 10, 2010

Mayor's Message

Dear API Community,

My administration is excited about our new initiatives within the Asian and Pacific Islander community.



We are excited for spring to begin, in hopes that we will have sunnier and warmer weather. We are even more thrilled to be able to watch the cherry blossom trees brighten up the entire District. We hope you and your family will be able to witness its entire beauty.

Another opportunity that we would like you to take advantage of is our recently launched [TrackDC](#), a new government website designed to let you learn exactly how OAPIA and the rest of the District government is working for you. We invite you to tell us how we're doing and how we can do better so that our government can better serve the API community.

These are just a few things my administration is doing to bring more services to the API community. May you have a blessed and prosperous Lunar New Year.

Sincerely,

Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor, District of Columbia

Director's Message

Dear API Community and Friends,

Happy Lunar New Year! It is wonderful to see so many people celebrate and welcome the Lunar New Year, the year of the tiger.



That's one of the reasons I am pleased to share this month's OAPIA newsletter with you. It has a special feature on the various Lunar New Year festivities that were celebrated in February, and also highlights our 2010 U.S. Census drive that we have been working very hard on for the past few months.

The Census plays a key role to making sure that your needs are being met in the API community. We urge you to participate and make yourself count in the 2010 U.S. Census!

As always, we thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a safe, successful, and very happy Lunar New Year.

Warm regards,

Soohyun Koo, Executive Director
Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific
Islander Affairs

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OAPIA Performance Hearing

On February, 12, 2010, OAPIA had its Performance Oversight Hearing before Councilwoman Alexander. Eight community members testified at the hearing. OAPIA provided information on its FY2010 goals and challenges. The testimony also included information on FY2009 to FY2010 accomplishments, FY2009 key performance indicators results, FY2010 upcoming key performance indicators, and goals and challenges from FY2009 and FY2010.

Census Updates and Highlights

OAPIA, in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, has been working on its Census initiative to educate the District community, especially the Asian community about the importance of the 2010 Census. OAPIA kicked off the initiative by hosting informational workshops for community members in November 2009.

In February, OAPIA conducted numerous activities for community leaders. OAPIA hosted a conference call with representatives from the Asian Service Center, Meyer Foundation, Japanese American Citizens League, Chinatown Service Center, South Asian Americans Leading Together, and the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development to join efforts in reaching out to the Asian population in the District. OAPIA offered to work with individual groups and is in the process of coordinating workshops with various community organizations.

Other highlights this month include:

- A distribution of over 100 census flyers at Vietnamese community Lunar New Year celebration.
- An information workshop for about 40 Gibson Plaza and Museum Square residents. Many Chinese residents live in these buildings.
- An e-update to API community leaders.
- A Census calendar on the OAPIA website that identifies various community events.
- Door to door outreach to over 100 merchants on Census 2010.
- An information workshop at Vietnamese American Community Service Center
- An information workshop at Wah Luck House Apartments where many Chinese residents live.
- A Census Mixer with Office on Latino Affairs and Office on African Affairs.



Residents at the Wah Luck House Apartments during the Census presentation



Residents at the Wah Luck House Apartments



Participants at the Vietnamese American Community Service Center

H1N1 Vaccination Clinics

On January 18th, OAPIA worked in partnership with the Department of Health and organized H1N1 vaccination clinics for API limited English proficient (LEP) residents at the MLK Library. A second clinic was held at the Vietnamese American Community Service Center. Visitors received free H1N1 vaccinations and information sheets on how to prevent the flu.

Bimonthly Community Meeting

On January 26, OAPIA held its Bi-monthly Community Meeting. Leaders from various community organizations joined Alex Block of the Census State Data Center, Sarah Latterner of the Office of Community Affairs, and Katya Andresen from Network for Good. The community discussed their plans to outreach for the Census, and Ms. Andresen from Network for Good described opportunities to expand their networks and build capacity as non-profits.

Spring Intern



Hyeon-yun Byeon

Hyeon-yun Byeon came to the U.S. on September 2009 through the WEST program, a student internship exchange program between the Korea-U.S governments, and received an OAPIA internship opportunity through the program. Hyeon-yun is currently a undergrad studying at the Changwon National University, Korea. Hyeon-yun is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Political Science especially with a focus on International Relationship and Sociology.

As an intern, Hyeon-yun is assisting with the OAPIA outreach program, and would like to help communicate with the API community using her bilingual skills. Hyeon-yun thinks global current issues like global poverty, peace and economy crisis are very important, as well as residents' rights. Hyeon-yun hopes her work in OAPIA will allow her to help local residents.

Tax Assistance Programs

Tax season has begun! You may begin to file retrieve and file online at irs.gov for federal tax returns, and at <http://otr.ofo.dc.gov> for DC tax forms. Remember that the deadline to submit tax forms is April 15, 2010. You may be able to file your taxes online for free by clicking on those websites.

The Office of Tax and Revenue will prepare, for free, District individual income tax returns for anyone requesting this service. You must have prepared their federal tax return before coming to the walk-in customer service center. You must also have all supporting documentation with you, including a copy of your federal tax return, supporting W-2 forms, and any other information required.

There are also free tax assistance preparation clinics where you may able to file federal and state taxes for free by volunteers. The DC Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign works with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to promote free tax assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. All tax sites are open to families with incomes below \$42,000 and individuals with incomes below \$22,000. Click [here](#) to find a location near you.

Happy Lunar New Year from OAPIA

On February 14, 2010, families and individuals celebrated the start of the Lunar New Year, the year of the tiger. Many Asian cultures such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese follow the Lunar Chinese calendar, which was perfected by the Chinese around 500 BCE. The New Year is celebrated by many Asian cultures, including the Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Japanese cultures. Celebrations usually last for many days, and includes eating traditional food with family members, and loud and colorful traditional dances to welcome the new year.

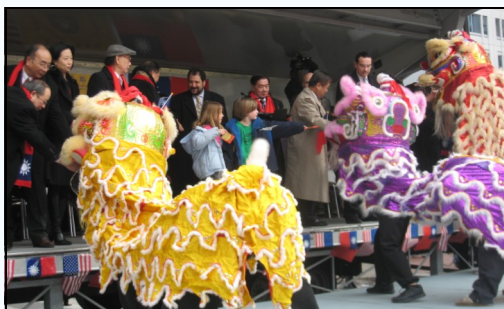
On February 16, 2010, The Vietnamese American Community Service Center celebrated Tết, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year at the Columbia Heights Recreational Center. Soohyun Julie Koo, Director of OAPIA made opening remarks to welcome everyone to the New Year. In addition to having Vietnamese performances and food, representatives from the Census Bureau also distributed flyers to visitors.

On February 23, 2010, The District of Columbia celebrated the Chinese Lunar New in Chinatown between H and I (Eye) Street. On behalf of Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Soohyun Julie Koo, Director of OAPIA announced February 14th as the Lunar New Year. The festivities began at noon with face painting and coloring activities in the Chinatown Community Cultural Center. Hundreds of people filled the sidewalks to watch the parade of lion dancers and dragon dancers, folk dancers, and a marching band. People were especially ecstatic to see the lighting of 5-story high fire cracker.

On February 24, the Wah Luck House Tenant Association celebrated the Lunar New Year with seniors from the Asian Service Center and Wah Luck House residents. Soohyun Julie Koo wished everyone a prosperous and healthy new year. Many seniors entertained the large crowd with singing and a tai chi performance before enjoying a delicious New Year feast.

“This is a truly amazing start to the Lunar New Year,” replied Ms. Koo. “May everyone have a healthy and prosperous new year. We hope that you will all continue to celebrate with the different events going on in the community.”

Other Lunar New Year celebratory [events](#):



Lion Dance at the Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade



From left to right: Jason Yun, Ambassador from Taipei Economic and Cultural representative Office (TECRO); Susan Lee, Maryland State Delegate; Han Jan, Chair of Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) Chair; Jeannie Ho, CCBA; Soohyun Julie Koo, Director of Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA).

KAGRO Scholarship Banquet

On Sunday January 31st, the Korean American Grocers Association of Greater Washington (KAGRO) celebrated a new year by awarding scholarships to ten students. Soohyun Julie Koo, Director of OAPIA represented Mayor Adrian M. Fenty to extend his greetings to KAGRO's Scholarship Banquet. The tradition of this scholarship banquet began in 1989 in Washington, DC and has spread to other 32 KAGRO Chapters in the United States and Canada.



Recipients at the KAGRO Scholarship Banquet

OAPIA Internship Program

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) is seeking motivated individuals interested in public service and the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community. Interns will gain valuable experience by working on projects serving the needs of the API communities and organizations in the District and will acquire vast knowledge about the District's various government agencies and functions. The interns will receive a worthwhile opportunity to grow, cultivate new ideas, and play a contributing role in District activities!

Language Access Intern - The intern will focus on language access related work in the office and issues affecting the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. OAPIA is tasked with providing technical assistance to over 25 District Agencies on language access. The intern will assist the Language Access Coordinator in implementing the Act. Some of the duties of the intern will include conducting an assessment of agency frontline centers, research best practices by municipal governments in providing linguistically and culturally appropriate services to the Asian and Pacific Islander community and further develop a network of governments, and creating reference manuals for District agencies on the API community.

Outreach Intern - The intern will work closely with the Outreach Team in serving the API population in the District. Duties include 1) assisting outreach coordinators with different outreach projects and activities; 2) visiting community based organizations, residents, and business owners; 3) providing case assistance to District residents & merchants, 4) occasional simple translations; and 5) handling administrative tasks. Being bilingual in English and Korean, Vietnamese, Mandarin, or Cantonese are required.

Qualifications Applicants should be undergraduate or graduate students who possess strong written and oral communication skills as well as organizational abilities. They must be flexible and willing to take initiative. Strong computer and research skills are also desired. The intern should be able to work a minimum of 10 weeks for at least 20 hours per week. Most importantly, applicants must be able to work with diverse populations. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. To apply, please email a resume, cover letter detailing your suitability for the position, and contact information to:

Elliot Lee, Outreach Specialist
 Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
 441 4th Street, NW, 721 North, Washington, DC 20001
 Tel: (202) 727-3120 / Fax: (202) 727-9655
Elliot.Lee@dc.gov

Staff Directory

Soohyun “Julie” Koo, *Executive Director*
soohyun.koo@dc.gov

Mable Kong, *Staff Assistant*
mable.kong@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Employment

Elliot Lee, *Community Outreach Specialist*
elliot.lee@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Housing

Dory Peters, *Special Assistant*
dory.peters@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Business and Economic Development

Neel Saxena, *Language Access and Program Coordinator*
neel.saxena@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Education

Ngoc Trinh, *Community Outreach Coordinator*
ngoc.trinh@dc.gov
Subject Matter: Safety

Upcoming Events

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monthly Commission Meeting | March 17, 6:30-8pm | 441 4th Street, NW Suite 721N |
| Bimonthly Community Meeting | March 30, 1-3pm | 441 4th Street, NW Suite 1107S |
| Asian Pacific American Heritage Month | May | TBA |
| 2010 Census Day | Begins April 1 | N/A |
| Case Assistance Clinics | Each Wednesday, 1-4pm | 441 4th Street, NW Suite 721N |

Contact Us:

Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
441 4th Street, NW Suite 721 North
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.727.3120
Fax: 202.727.9255
www.apia.dc.gov